



Lester G. MacNamara WMA Restoration Project

Location: Tuckahoe, New Jersey
Restoration Type: Estuarine Marsh
Project Type: Coastal Program

The restoration project at Lester G. MacNamara Wildlife Management Area (Tuckahoe WMA) reverted degraded salt marsh habitat to natural vegetation. Tuckahoe WMA is comprised of 13,337-acres along the Great Egg Harbor River in Cape May County, New Jersey. Approximately 9,600 acres are tidal marsh, much of which had been invaded by common reed (*Phragmites australis*).

Common reed is a perennial grass primarily associated with wetland habitats. In New Jersey, common reed is most common in tidal and non-tidal marshes and can spread at rates of four percent per year. The recent rapid expansion of *Phragmites* into Atlantic coast salt marshes during the last 20 years has been

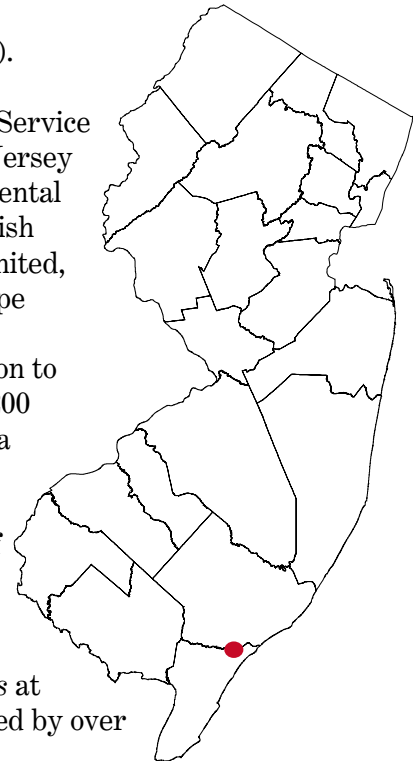


Black duck (*Anas rubripes*)

of concern. Common reed has been expanding into low marsh habitat, displacing native species such as smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*), saltmeadow cordgrass (*Spartina patens*) and common threesquare (*Schoenoplectus pungens*).

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service partnered with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife, Ducks Unlimited, Incorporated, and the Cape May County Mosquito Extermination Commission to restore approximately 2,200 acres of tidal marsh over a four-year period.

Through a combination of mechanical and chemical control, prescribed burning, and hydrologic modifications, *Phragmites* at Tuckahoe has been reduced by over 90 percent.



Partners

- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife [Landowner]
- Ducks Unlimited, Incorporated
- Cape May Mosquito Commission
- New Jersey Forest Fire Service



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Clockwise from top left: salt marsh after restoration work; aerial spraying of *Phragmites*; prescribed burn on a *Phragmites* stand; aerial view of MacNamara Wildlife Management Area.